



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 15 November 2012

Top Stories

- Authorities recovered \$1.5 million in copper plates stolen from the Asarco plant in Hayden, Arizona, the Associated Press reported November 13. – *Associated Press* (See item [4](#))
- There are 10,000 active identity theft crime rings across the U.S., with the greatest concentration in a “ring of fraud” that stretches across the Southeast United States, according to a new report by fraud-fighting firm ID Analytics. – *NBC News* (See item [5](#))
- A Mexican federal police commander was arrested November 13 and charged with providing false information in the case of 14 officers accused of ambushing a U.S. Embassy vehicle in August. – *Associated Press* (See item [23](#))
- A former Dixon, Illinois comptroller was scheduled to plead guilty to stealing \$53 million of public money while overseeing the town’s public finances beginning in 1990 and siphoning it into a secret bank account. – *Associated Press* (See item [27](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

1. *November 14, WAFF 48 Huntsville* – (Alabama) **Cherokee Nitrogen plant explosion shakes multiple counties.** An explosion at a chemical plant in Colbert County, Alabama, sent a man to the hospital November 13. Colbert County Emergency Management Agency officials said the explosion was small, but residents from as far as Lauderdale County reported they heard a loud boom, while other residents reported the noise shook their homes. The Cherokee Plant general manager said one employee was injured and sent to Helen Keller Hospital with minor injuries. The explosion happened when a high pressure line ruptured as ammonia was being produced, according to the plant manager. The plant is conducting an investigation to determine what exactly caused the pressure line to burst; the investigation could take days and repairs to the plant could take weeks.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/story/20090504/cherokee-nitrogen-plant-explosion-shakes-multiple-counties>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

2. *November 14, Reuters* – (International) **Toyota to recall 2.8 million vehicles for steering glitch.** Toyota Motor Corp said it will recall 2.77 million vehicles worldwide for steering and water pump problems, Reuters reported November 14. Toyota said the defects had caused no accidents and could each be fixed in an hour or so. The first recall covers 2.67 million 2000-2006 Corolla vehicles worldwide, 670,000 in the U.S., to fix a steering component that could be damaged by wear and tear. The other concerns 630,000 2004-2011 gasoline-electric hybrid Prius vehicles worldwide to replace water pumps, a company spokesman said. Many vehicles are targeted by both recalls, resulting in overlap.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/classified/automotive/sns-rt-us-toyota-recall-priusbre8ad09a-20121113,0,3068364.story>

3. *November 14, U.S. Department of Transportation* – (National) **NHTSA recall notice: Cadillac XTS rear seat head restraints.** General Motors announced November 14 that is recalling 12,626 model year 2013 Cadillac XTS vehicles manufactured from October 12, 2011, through August 30, 2012, for failing to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 202, “Head Restraints.” The rear seat head restraints may not lock in the upright position after being folded

forward. If the head restraint is at its lowest position and it falls forward it will not meet the height required by the standard. In the event of a vehicle crash, the lowered head restraint may increase the occupant's risk of neck injury. General Motors will notify owners, and dealers will replace the head restraints free of charge.

Source: [http://www-](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rel_ID=12V525000&summary=true&prod_id=1504810&PrintVersion=YES)

[odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rel_ID=12V525000&summary=true&prod_id=1504810&PrintVersion=YES](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rel_ID=12V525000&summary=true&prod_id=1504810&PrintVersion=YES)

4. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Authorities recover \$1.5 million in stolen copper.** Authorities recovered \$1.5 million in copper plates stolen from the Asarco plant in Hayden, Arizona, the Associated Press reported November 13. An Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman said the case began in late September with the recovery of \$300,000 in copper plates that were found in the back of a commercial vehicle during a traffic stop and later at a warehouse in Marana. The spokesman said the warehouse was supplying copper to a scrap metal yard in the Los Angeles area and that federal authorities moved to stop the shipment of those items to China.

Source: <http://ktar.com/22/1588381/15-million-in-stolen-copper-recovered>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 14, NBC News* – (National) **10,000 ID fraud gangs active in US, especially the Southeast, study finds.** There are 10,000 active identity theft crime rings across the U.S., with the greatest concentration in a “ring of fraud” that stretches across the Southeast from Virginia to Mississippi, according to a new report by fraud-fighting firm ID Analytics, NBC News reported November 14. A majority of these rings are what the firm calls “Friends & Family” groups, not professional criminal organizations, the report concludes. The rings are most highly concentrated in Washington D.C.; Detroit; Tampa, Florida; Greenville, Mississippi; Macon, Georgia; and Montgomery, Alabama. ID Analytics compiled the results by examining its massive database of credit applications and other identity “risk events,” which includes 1.7 billion entries. The firm cross references credit applications from major banks, auto dealers, wireless firms, and other credit grantors looking for evidence of systematic identity fraud. A “crime ring” was defined by ID Analytics as two or more individuals working in concert, repeatedly submitting fraudulent applications in an attempt to commit fraud. Collusion was determined by noting when multiple members of the rings used similar personal identifying information, such as Social Security numbers, in fraud attempts.

Source: <http://redtape.nbcnews.com/news/2012/11/14/15144350-10000-id-fraud-gangs-active-in-us-especially-the-southeast-study-finds?lite>

6. *November 14, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **China’s illicit flows are ‘big issue’ for money laundering.** Banks face a risk from money laundering in China because of large flows of illicit money, weak controls, and the difficulties of screening names, said a new report from research and consulting firm Celent. Money laundering is “a big issue” in southern China, Celent said, because of the informal nature of capital flows there. With increased international exposure to the Yuan as its use grows in commerce and finance, the report urged regulators and financial institutions “to step up efforts to curb money laundering activities.” One of the major issues is screening transactions. A survey of 25 banks with Chinese operations included in the report revealed that 60% found technology issues were a challenge in using Chinese names in international payments and 56% found the same challenge with messaging systems. Also, a questionnaire sent with the survey showed banks find local Chinese blacklists of undesirable customers harder to use than the standard list of sanctioned individuals from the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Most banks can screen the OFAC list using technology, but one questionnaire respondent said monitoring the Chinese lists requires “eyeball checking.”
Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2012/11/14/chinas-illicit-flows-are-big-issue-for-money-laundering/>
7. *November 13, Pensions & Investments* – (National) **Labor Department settles with Ivy, 3 other firms over Madoff losses.** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) November 13 announced a \$217 million settlement with four companies to resolve a series of lawsuits relating to losses from investments in Bernard L. Madoff Securities’ Ponzi scheme. The settlement was reached with Ivy Asset Management, J.P. Jeanneret Associates, Beacon Associates Management, Andover Associates Management, and their former and current owners and executives, according to the DOL’s statement. The settlement resolves litigation filed by both the DOL and the New York attorney general’s office as well as private and class-action lawsuits brought by individuals and pension plans that claimed they invested in Madoff Securities’ trading strategy on the advice of the companies. The suits, including the DOL’s, alleged the four firms and their owners and principals “misrepresented and concealed doubts and suspicions” about investment in the Madoff Securities’ trading strategy.
Source: <http://www.pionline.com/article/20121113/DAILYREG/121119967/labor-department-settles-with-ivy-3-other-firms-over-madoff-losses>
8. *November 13, Redlands-Loma Linda Patch* – (California) **Halo Bandit accused of robberies in Yucaipa, Hemet arrested at border.** A man wanted in connection with bank robberies in Yucaipa, Hemet, San Jacinto, and Menifee, California, and a failed attempt at a Murrieta bank, was arrested November 11 at the San Ysidro border crossing when he tried to enter the U.S. from Mexico, Riverside County sheriff’s officials said November 13. The FBI nicknamed the suspect the Halo Bandit in October for the halo on his Angels ballcap. The man is suspected in the robberies of a Citibank branch in Yucaipa October 24, a bank in Murrieta about 2 hours earlier October 24, a Citibank branch in Yucaipa November 7, a Bank of America branch in Menifee September 27, and others between April and October.
Source: <http://redlands.patch.com/articles/halo-bandit-accused-of-robberies-in-yucaipa-hemet-menifee-arrested-at-border#photo-11884420>

For another story, see item [27](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

9. *November 12, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **17 hurt as buses collide near entrance to Lincoln Tunnel.** Two Manhattan-bound buses in Weehawken, New Jersey, collided November 12, leaving 17 people injured, according to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Two of those people were seriously injured, an agency spokesman said. The crash involved a New Jersey Transit bus and a Martz Trailways bus. The crash closed all outbound lanes of the Lincoln Tunnel for nearly 3 hours because the buses run in an express lane against the New Jersey-bound traffic. Bus service to and from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Midtown Manhattan was running on delays of 60-90 minutes and police were diverting buses through Hoboken, New Jersey. The accident caused residual backups that choked the area highways. The Port Authority Police Department is investigating the crash.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/11/17_hurts_as_buses_collide_near.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *November 13, Garnet Valley Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Mail theft in Concord.** Concord Supervisors offered suggestions for homeowners after learning of mail removed from residential boxes in Pennsylvania's Concord Woods development, Garnet Valley Press reported November 13. Residents were advised to remove mail on a daily basis and not leave outgoing items in the box overnight, since certain items may contain information that could possibly be used for identity theft. For additional security, individuals may opt to install locking mailboxes available at home improvement stores.

Source:

http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2012/11/13/garnet_valley_press/news/doc50a2746fa0e54585076667.txt

11. *November 13, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Teenagers arrested in Burbank after allegedly stealing UPS deliveries from front porches.** Two teenagers were arrested November 8 on suspicion of trailing UPS delivery trucks and stealing packages from the front porches of homes in Burbank, California, police said. Police were called after a caller noticed a Volkswagen Jetta following a UPS truck. The teenagers were allegedly stealing the packages after they were delivered by UPS. Cardboard boxes with shipping labels were discovered inside the car and scattered throughout nearby streets.

Source: http://articles.burbankleader.com/2012-11-13/the818now/tn-818-1113-teenagers-arrested-in-burbank-after-allegedly-stealing-ups-deliveries-from-front-porches_1_front-porches-ups-deliveries-alene-tchekmedyan

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

12. *November 13, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (National) **Iowa firm recalls barbecue sausage products that may be undercooked.** Pinnacle Foods Group LLC, a Fort Madison, Iowa company, recalled November 13 approximately 90,975-pounds of bourbon barbecue sausage products because they may have been underprocessed. The recalled products include 5-ounce cans of “Armour Vienna Sausage Bourbon BBQ Flavored” (24 per case) with a use by date of September 7, 2015. The products were sold to retail establishments nationwide. The problem was discovered by the company, and it believes the problem occurred as a result of processing time miscalculations which caused the product to be undercooked. Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_ & Events/Recall_074_2012_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_074_2012_Release/index.asp)

For more stories, see items [13](#), [14](#), and [17](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

13. *November 14, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Contamination levels remain high after Sandy, spill.** Water and oyster samples in the Nansemond and lower James rivers in Virginia continue to show elevated contamination levels two weeks after Hurricane Sandy, and a related sewage spill prompted the State to close those areas to shellfish harvesting, a health department official said November 13. The director of the Virginia Department of Health Division of Shellfish Sanitation said samples would be taken from the Nansemond, lower James, and Lynnhaven rivers November 13 and November 14, weather permitting. Meanwhile, the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) said it has taken steps to boost oxygen levels and speed the recovery of Shingle Creek, the site of a massive sewage spill. A spokeswoman for HRSD said workers began November 13 to pull water from the creek, saturate it with oxygen, and return it to the creek. The director of the Virginia Department of Health Division of Shellfish Sanitation said most of the lower Chesapeake Bay, from the Poquoson River south, was closed to shellfish harvesting in the storm’s wake because of high levels of coliphage, a virus that indicates the presence of human pathogens associated with sewage contamination. Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2012/11/contamination-levels-remain-high-after-sandy-spill>
14. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Feds threaten to assume Iowa waterway protection.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) threatened to take over protection of Iowa’s waterways from the State unless local officials make significant changes. The Des Moines Register reported November 13 that a federal investigation showed the State has been lax in requiring that livestock operations follow rules to keep manure out of Iowa’s creeks, rivers, and lakes. The EPA report said the State

Department of Natural Resources has not properly inspected livestock facilities and failed in its duties about half the time when responding to livestock pollution. The EPA investigated the State's enforcement after receiving a petition five years ago from environmental groups, which called for the federal agency to take control because of what the groups argued was lax State enforcement.

Source: http://www.southwestiowanews.com/council_bluffs/news/feds-threaten-to-assume-iowa-waterway-protection/article_9b8fefac-2df4-11e2-92d0-0019bb2963f4.html

15. *November 13, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon) **DEQ fines Clean Water Services for exceeding chlorine limit at Tigard wastewater plant.** A Tigard, Oregon wastewater treatment plant exceeded the permitted amount of chlorine discharge allowed into the Tualatin River August 22, according to Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ fined Hillsboro-based Clean Water Services \$4,800 November 13, citing the August event at the water utility's Durham Advanced Water Treatment Plant. The violation lasted less than an hour, and more than doubled the 24-hour average of .026 milligrams of chlorine per liter allowed under the plant's permit, according to a DEQ water quality permit specialist. A DEQ water quality permit specialist termed the violation "substantial," and said although the duration of the chlorine discharge was short the effects were considered to be significant given the environmentally sensitive time of the violation. He said the river flow in August was low, and "a very small amount of chlorine is considered to be toxic."

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2012/11/deq_fines_tigard_water_treatme.html

16. *November 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Hawaii) **EPA resolves large capacity cesspool case with Brennecke's Beach Broiler / Poipu restaurant replaces own cesspools, aids County of Kauai with wastewater project.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resolved an enforcement action against Lealani Corp. and Poipu Inn, Inc., owners of Brennecke's Beach Broiler for failing to close two large capacity cesspools in Poipu, Kauai, Hawaii. The company will pay a \$47,455 fine to the EPA, and has closed and replaced its two large capacity cesspools, a November 13 press release stated. In addition, the company paid for and completed a supplemental environmental project costing over \$500,000 to connect the County of Kauai's restrooms at Poipu Beach Park to the Poipu Wastewater Plant. The county's beach park septic system was not in violation of any federal, State, or county rules, but the project to replace the septic system was undertaken as the system only provides basic treatment of sewage, is located close to shallow coastal waters, and represents a potential source of contamination.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/ca78451e92ed559285257ab500675949?OpenDocument>

17. *November 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Iowa) **Roquette America Inc. to pay \$4,100,000 penalty to settle violations of Clean Water Act at Keokuk, Iowa, facility.** Roquette America Inc. agreed to pay a \$4,100,000 civil penalty to settle

alleged violations of the Clean Water Act and its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit at its grain processing facility in Keokuk, Iowa, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice announced November 13. As early as 2008, Roquette discharged industrial waste directly into the Mississippi River and Soap Creek. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) issued three Administrative Orders and eight Notices of Violation to Roquette since 2000. The Keokuk facility violated its NPDES permit at least 1,174 times, and on at least 30 occasions illegally discharged at least 250,000 gallons of industrial waste into the Mississippi River and Soap Creek. Roquette also discharged partially treated industrial waste from its wastewater treatment plant, and discharged steam condensate into Soap Creek through an unpermitted outfall. In addition to paying the penalty, Roquette will complete other requirements valued at more than \$17 million to further protect the Mississippi River and Soap Creek.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/645d50e068ff777185257ab50083932a?OpenDocument>

18. *November 13, KPIX 5 San Francisco* – (California) **Water main break creates river of mud in Daly City neighborhood.** Crews worked November 13 on the finishing touches of cleanup after a water main break flooded a Daly City, California neighborhood with mud, a city water and wastewater resources spokesman said. An 8-inch cast-iron pipe on Daly City’s “Reservoir 3” ruptured, sending 45,000 gallons of water downhill, the director of water and wastewater resources said. The water affected four blocks. No homes were flooded, but streets were left covered in a layer of mud so thick it reached the top of parked cars’ wheels. Twelve homes were evacuated as a precaution. All the residents had been allowed to return. Evacuees were directed to the Teglia Community Center, but only one family with a baby had sought assistance at the site, a North County Fire Authority spokesman said. Water was not affected from the break and officials said there should be no issues of muddy water from the flood.

Source: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/11/13/water-main-break-causes-flooding-in-daly-city/>

19. *November 13, Sarasota Herald-Tribune* – (Florida) **Water main break hits Sarasota island areas.** City officials warned some Sarasota, Florida residents to boil their water for the next few days as a precaution after a water line broke November 13. Utility crews were repairing the break that happened when a contractor was putting in a pole with an auger, the Sarasota Compliance and Operations Manager said. The crews lowered water pressure in Bird Key, City Island, Coon Key, Golden Gate Point Lido Key, and St. Armand Key. The city will notify people when the precaution is no longer necessary.

Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20121113/ARTICLE/121119851?tc=ar>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **NC man sentenced for health care fraud in Va.** In federal court in Richmond, Virginia, November 13, a North Carolina man was sentenced to four years in prison for conspiracy to commit health care fraud and he also agreed to pay \$1.6 million in restitution to the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. Federal prosecutors said he owned Richmond-based Access Regional Taskforce, which contracted with Medicaid to provide in-home mental health services for children. He was accused of collecting money from Medicaid for services that did not meet the criteria for reimbursement. He also paid a marketing company more than \$545,000 for patient referrals. The owner of the marketing company was sentenced to three years and one month in prison for receiving the illegal payments. Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2012/11/14/3168938/nc-man-sentenced-for-health-care.html>
21. *November 13, Powell Tribune* – (National) **Cardwell, Plake accused of skimming \$800K in Indiana.** Prosecutors in the U.S. District of Northern Indiana released an indictment November 8 alleging that a former CEO of White County Memorial Hospital in Monticello, Indiana, and a conspirator defrauded the hospital out of more than \$800,000 between March 2003 and October 2009. The former CEO is currently a wanted fugitive, and was CEO of the hospital during the time in question. The indictment alleged he implemented a scheme in which he funneled White County's money to a bogus staff recruiting firm called Plake and Associates. In actuality, the firm was just a West Lafayette, Indiana, resident with no recruiting experience and who at the time in question worked as a Catholic youth minister. The indictment alleges he did no recruiting with White County Memorial Hospital's money, instead pocketing 25 percent while kicking 75 percent back to the CEO. The indictment alleged the two men made their dealings appear legitimate by creating fake recruiting agreements and invoices. The two men each stand charged with one felony count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud in Indiana's northern district. The two men are also accused of running the same scheme at Powell Valley Healthcare. However, the men allegedly embezzled \$847,884 between March and September 2011. Source: [http://www.powelltribune.com/sports/item/10339-cardwell-plake-accused-of-skimming-\\$800k-in-indiana](http://www.powelltribune.com/sports/item/10339-cardwell-plake-accused-of-skimming-$800k-in-indiana)
22. *November 9, Southwest Florida News-Press* – (Florida) **Alere Home Monitoring warns of data breach.** More than 100,000 patients who take drugs to prevent blood clots are at risk of identity theft after an employee of Alere Home Monitoring, Inc.'s laptop was stolen, Southwest Florida News-Press reported November 9. The computer contained the names, Social Security numbers, addresses, and diagnoses of patients who take anticoagulant drugs such as warfarin or Coumadin. The company became aware of the data breach around October 1, said the director of corporate relations for Alere, Inc. The laptop was taken in a car break-in. The data was not encrypted, but the computer was password protected. Source: <http://www.marcoislandflorida.com/article/20121109/NEWS01/121109025/Alere-Home-Monitoring-warns-of-data-breach-?odyssey=tab|mostpopular|text|FRONTPAGE>

Government Facilities Sector

23. *November 14, Associated Press* – (International) **Mexican police commander linked to attack on U.S. Embassy vehicle.** A Mexican federal police commander was arrested and charged with providing false information in the case of 14 officers accused of ambushing a U.S. Embassy vehicle in August, authorities said November 13. Initial reports on the shooting, which wounded two CIA agents, said federal police mistook the embassy SUV for a criminal vehicle, but officials later said it appeared to be an intentional attack and raised the possibility it was staged at the behest of a drug cartel. The inspector general was jailed November 12, accused of lying to authorities about what happened in the August 24 attack south of Mexico City, two government officials familiar with the case said. The 14 officers, who were formally charged with attempted murder last week, were in plain clothes and civilian vehicles when they chased and fired at the gray Toyota SUV with diplomatic plates, then peppered the windows of the armored vehicle with 152 bullets when it came to a stop. Two CIA officers, whose identities have not been released by the U.S. government, had non-life-threatening injuries, and a third person in the car, a Mexican navy captain, was not hurt. The officers so far do not face organized crime charges. However, the Mexican attorney general's office has said the investigation is continuing, and it is still exploring whether the officers had links with organized crime.
Source: http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_21992983/mexican-police-commander-linked-attack-u-s-embassy
24. *November 14, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **Electrical explosion fills SF City Hall with smoke.** An electrical panel blew up in the basement of San Francisco City Hall causing smoke in the building, KGO 7 San Francisco reported in a November 14 update. The sprinklers went off, filling a portion of the basement with an inch of water. San Francisco firefighters and PG&E crews responded to the scene. A reception was going on at the time of the explosion and had to be evacuated. The assistant chief said City Hall was expected to be open November 14 for regular business hours, and officials said the building was running on generators until power was restored.
Source:
http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san_francisco&id=8884736
25. *November 14, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Colo. man accused of plotting to kill the President, shoot kids appears in federal court.** The suspect accused of plotting to kill the U.S. President during a visit to Colorado appeared in federal court November 13. He was also accused of planning to shoot children in Westminster during a Halloween event at Standley Lake High School. A Secret Service agent wrote a complaint which said the Colorado man stole a rifle out of his aunt and uncle's home in Westminster and allegedly planned to use at a trick or treat event at Standley Lake High School October 31. The criminal complaint said he also talked to investigators about the President's schedule and planned to carry out the assassination during the President's campaign stop in Boulder November 1. The plans unraveled because he allegedly revealed much of this to a therapist he was seeing. He was put on a 72-hour mental health hold at a hospital. The Secret Service took the man into custody November 9. Jefferson County Schools also requested a restraining order.

Source: <http://kdvr.com/2012/11/13/colo-man-accused-of-plotting-to-kill-obama-shoot-kids-appears-in-federal-court/>

26. *November 14, Softpedia* – (National) **NASA warns employees that their personal information has been compromised.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) warned employees that their personal details might have been compromised after a laptop was stolen from a staffer's locked car, Softpedia reported November 14. The stolen device contains records of personally identifiable information for numerous employees, contractors, and "others." The laptop is password protected, but because there was no disk encryption system set in place, the chances for the information stored on it to be misused are fairly high. As a result of the theft, NASA's administrator and the CIO restricted employees from removing work laptops containing sensitive information from the facility if they do not contain encryption software. The agency hopes to complete the laptop encryption program by December 21, 2012. All of the affected individuals will benefit from the services of data breach specialist ID Experts. They will receive notification letters containing instructions on how to protect their identities and financial assets.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/NASA-Warns-Employees-That-Their-Personal-Information-Has-Been-Compromised-306869.shtml>

27. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Ex-comptroller to plead guilty in \$53M scam.** The former comptroller of Dixon, Illinois, was scheduled to plead guilty to a federal charge that accuses her of stealing \$53 million of public money while overseeing the town's public finances and siphoning it into a secret bank account, a U.S. attorney's spokesman said, according to the Associated Press November 14. She is accused of using her modestly paid town hall job to steal tax dollars that supported an extravagant way of life and won her national fame as a horse breeder. Prosecutors allege she began stealing the money in 1990. She had been working for the town since she was 17 and started to oversee the town's public finances in the 1980s. Her scheme unraveled only after a co-worker filling in for her while she was on an extended vacation stumbled upon the secret bank account, prosecutors allege. The authorities allege she created phony invoices that she characterized as being from the State of Illinois. She then allegedly put that money from a city account into another account, which she repeatedly used for personal expenses.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/us/article/Feds-Ex-comptroller-to-plead-guilty-in-53M-scam-4033769.php>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

28. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **NTSB: No distress call before police chopper crash.** Two officers in an Atlanta police helicopter made no distress calls November 3 before their aircraft collided with wires atop a power pole and crashed, killing them, according to a preliminary report from federal transportation investigators. The crew was not communicating with air traffic control at the time of the accident, but the helicopter was observed on radar immediately before the crash,

according to a preliminary report released November 13 by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The helicopter crashed near an intersection while searching for a missing child. The pilot and tactical flight officer were killed in the crash. The report sheds little light on what might have caused the chopper to plunge to the ground, but describes the fiery aftermath of the crash. It will likely take several months before the full investigation is complete, NTSB officials have said.

Source: http://www.heraldextra.com/news/national/ntsb-no-distress-call-before-police-chopper-crash/article_e8510f4b-21aa-5593-b3fa-74804edaae8d.html

29. *November 14, WDAF 4 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Emergency response times to be released following fierce scrutiny.** For months, emergency response times were under fire in Kansas City, Missouri. November 13, the interim fire chief was expected to release district-by-district response times to the Public Safety Committee. The amount of time it should take for an ambulance to arrive at the scene of an emergency is 9 minutes or less. However, recent statistics show ambulances arriving at a scene within that time frame at only 75 percent of the time. Due to a protocol change in December 2011, requiring dispatchers to get additional information from callers, ambulance response times have slowed by about minute. Fire officials said another reason for slower response time is that the number of emergency calls they have received over the past couple years doubled.

Source: <http://fox4kc.com/2012/11/14/emergency-response-times-to-be-released-following-fierce-scrutiny/>

30. *November 13, Gainesville Times* – (Georgia) **2 facing charges of impersonating police officer, theft.** Two people were charged November 12 with theft and impersonating police officers after a November 10 incident in Hall County, Georgia. A victim thought he was being stopped by an unmarked law enforcement car with flashing blue lights, according to a news release from the Hall County Sheriff's Office. Once stopped, the victim said one of the occupants of the car assaulted him and fled the scene, taking his car. The victim suffered minor facial injuries and did not require treatment. A man and woman were arrested November 12 at an apartment complex. Both were facing multiple charges, and the man was held in the Hall County Jail without bond, due primarily to the charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, a sheriff's office spokesman said. The woman was held on \$27,500 bond. Both will appear in court November 30 for a committal hearing.

Source: <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/6/article/75595/>

31. *November 13, Pleasantville Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **N.J. crews still drying out flooded firehouse.** Scullville, New Jersey firefighter's main firehouse and much of their equipment is still submerged in salt water, the Pleasantville Press of Atlantic City reported November 13. Black water reached 16 inches high in the station, and partially submerged two fire engines and destroyed air compressors, chainsaws, and one of the company's Jaws of Life. The week of November 5, township officials said representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency assessed the damage at \$5 million. In addition to firefighting equipment, the station lost most of the appliances and furniture in its fire hall and kitchen. Making matters worse, the chief said some equipment — from hoses to wet suits — has been made unusable because of

contaminants such as diesel fuel in the water.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10828909/nj-crews-still-drying-out-flooded-firehouse>

32. *November 9, U.S. Coast Guard* – (Hawaii) **False distress expends Coast Guard resources at east Oahu.** The Coast Guard was asking the public’s help November 9 in locating the source of recent false distress calls which have been occurring mainly on the east end of Oahu, Hawaii. The most recent call occurred November 6, and was received by Coast Guard watchstanders in the Sector Honolulu Command Center. The call was a child’s voice saying, “Hello, hello, hello, hello. Mayday, mayday.” The voice sounded very similar, if not identical, to the voice heard on other recent radio calls that were eventually suspended as probable hoaxes after no source of distress could be located. An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, was launched to investigate the November 6 call. No indications of distress were located during the search. The search was suspended November 7.
Source: <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/false-distress-expends-coast-guard-resources-at-east-oahu/123>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

33. *November 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Malware uses social media and blogging sites as part of its C&C server.** Researchers have uncovered some interesting phishing attacks that rely on blogging and social media Web sites as part of the command and control (C&C) server, Softpedia reported November 14. According to FireEye experts, it all starts with an attachment called “AutoCleanTool.rar.” When the file is unzipped and executed, users are presented with a small application window which prompts them to enter their full email address and its associated password. Once the credentials are handed over, the information is saved into the Windows registry, after which it is transmitted to the attackers by the malware. In the meantime, a directory structure is created and a malicious DLL file is dropped in a couple of locations. Once the DLL (NetCCxx.dll) is loaded, the malware first checks to see if it can connect to the Internet by using a GET request. Then, it starts contacting a number of domains, all of which appear to be hosted on Chinese social media and blogging Web sites. From these Web sites, the malware starts downloading a series of .jpg image files. The images contain an “unknown padding,” 471 bytes in size, after the “Endofimage” marker. This “unknown padding” is referenced by the threat in order to update itself. The data it takes from one image becomes part of a new .ini file that contains configuration details. Another part of the retrieved data contains the URL for an additional image file, which in turn contains more configuration information. This way, the malware can update itself without being noticed by security software. Furthermore, the data from the .jpg file can also be utilized to update the entire framework and even add new components.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Malware-Uses-Social-Media-and-Blogging-Sites-as-Part-of-Its-C-C-Server-306801.shtml>

34. *November 14, Business Wire* – (International) **Intel Corporation: McAfee Threats Report shows global expansion of cybercrime.** McAfee November 14 released the McAfee Threats Report: Third Quarter 2012, which explores techniques in cybercrime as well as the global evolution of cyber exploits. The latest report uncovers new details of “Operation High Roller.” It states that mobile malware almost doubled the previous quarter’s total, and reveals an all-time high in database breaches. McAfee Labs also saw jumps in some categories of malware, including ransomware and signed binaries. Rootkits and Mac malware continue to rise, while password-stealing Trojans and AutoRun malware also trended strongly upward.
Source: <http://www.4-traders.com/INTEL-CORPORATION-4829/news/Intel-Corporation-McAfee-Threats-Report-Shows-Global-Expansion-of-Cybercrime-15509039/>
35. *November 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Experts find ransomware that works on Windows 8.** Symantec has identified a variant of ransomware that works on Windows 8. Symantec experts have tested several ransomware samples to see how well they work on Windows 8. Some of the threats have not managed to lock up the infected computers and hold them for ransom, but Trojan.Ransomlock.U has no problem accomplishing the task. Trojan.Ransomlock.U is designed to display the ransom message based on the victim’s location and researchers reveal that this feature works without any problems on Windows 8.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Experts-Find-Ransomware-That-Works-on-Windows-8-306855.shtml>
36. *November 13, IDG News Service* – (International) **Phishing attack targets CloudFlare customers.** Customers of the popular CloudFlare Web site acceleration and security service were targeted in an email attack that directed them to a fake version of the Web site. Reports about spoofed CloudFlare emails that contained links to a phishing Web site were posted November 12 on the company’s support forum by customers. The rogue messages masqueraded as CloudFlare alerts about account load limits being exceeded. Around 785,000 sites are currently configured to use CloudFlare’s DNS servers, according to a report by U.K.-based Internet research and security firm Netcraft.
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2012/111312-phishing-attack-targets-cloudflare-264225.html>
37. *November 13, eWeek* – (International) **Microsoft fixes 19 security flaws in November Patch Tuesday update.** Microsoft pushed out six security bulletins covering 19 vulnerabilities across Windows, Internet Explorer, and several other products November 13. Four of the six updates are rated “Critical.” MS12-071 addresses three security issues in Internet Explorer, none of which are known to be currently under attack. However, Microsoft indicated it expects exploit code to be available soon, and successful exploitation of these issues would allow an attacker to remotely execute code. MS12-075 addresses three vulnerabilities in the Windows kernel in all supported versions of Windows. The most severe of the flaws permits a successful hacker to remotely execute code on the compromised system if the attacker can lure the user to a Web site with a maliciously-crafted TrueType font file embedded. The other two

critical bulletins address issues in the Windows shell (two vulnerabilities) and the .NET Framework (five vulnerabilities). In the case of the Windows shell issues, the vulnerabilities could allow remote code execution if a user browses to a specially-crafted briefcase in Windows Explorer.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/security/microsoft-fixes-19-security-flaws-in-november-patch-tuesday-update/>

For another story, see item [38](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

38. *November 14, PC Magazine* – (International) **Skype security issue prompts password reset shutdown.** Skype, a tool that roughly 250 million users rely on for cheap, seamless international audio and video calling, suffered a security breach that could allow anyone to change a user's password and take over their account, PC Magazine reported November 14. According to reports, the simple hack can be executed as long as the intruder knows the user's account name and associated email address. In response, Skype has temporarily disabled the password reset feature in Skype to protect users. Originally discovered on a Russian hacker Web site, the exploit was tested and confirmed by TheNextWeb over the last 24 hours.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2412100,00.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *November 13, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Investigators rule Mannford apartment explosion gas-related accident.** An explosion that rocked a Mannford, Oklahoma apartment complex November 12 was ruled an accident. A malfunctioning water heater created a dangerous gas build up, according to fire officials November 13. Six people were injured from the explosion and the resulting fire. One of the injured was a volunteer firefighter who lives next to the apartment complex. He said he heard the explosion and then helped pull out a woman from the burning building. The woman suffered burns to 25 percent of her body and the man suffered burns to his hands. Four other people were transported to local hospitals for treatment. Meanwhile, surrounding buildings are without gas until the fire marshal determines they are safe.

Source: http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local_news/mannford/investigators-looking-into-cause-of-apartment-explosion

For another story, see item [40](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

40. *November 14, WPVI 6 Philadelphia; Associated Press* – (Delaware) **Fire at Del. hardware store causes \$500K in damage.** Delaware fire officials believe a fire that tore through a century-old hardware store caused about \$500,000 in damage. The fire happened November 12 at Burton Bros. Hardware in Seaford. The store has been in continuous operation since 1893, and the building has been listed since the 1970s on the National Register of Historic Places. The brothers who operate the store responded to the blaze as members of the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department. One brother told the News Journal of Wilmington that he would continue making deliveries to his customers, even though the store's basement was flooded and most of the merchandise was damaged by water or smoke. The other brother was being treated at a Pennsylvania hospital for smoke inhalation.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8884940>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

41. *November 14, Mitchell Daily Republic* – (South Dakota) **Two damaged dams receive water district funds for repairs.** The James River Water Development District Board of Directors approved funding for work on two dams in Hutchinson County, South Dakota, at their semi-monthly meeting in Huron November 13. The first was approved for \$12,320, and the private owner will cover the remaining half of the repair costs. For the second dam, the board approved \$5,407, or half of the cost for that project. Another agenda item approved \$9,794 as a contingent on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's approval to help install tiling north of Letcher to prevent water from blocking access to the city. The total project was estimated at \$78,370. Also, each of the nine counties in the James River Water Development District received \$6,500 for tree planting efforts in the Conservation Districts.

Source: <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/event/article/id/72497/group/homepage/>

42. *November 13, Silverton Appeal Tribune* – (Oregon) **Dam warning system OK'd.** Oregon's Silverton City Council voted November 5 to award a \$26,000 contract to a Newberg company, Engineered Monitoring Solutions (EMS), to begin designing an early warning system for the Silver Creek Dam, the Silverton Appeal Tribune reported November 13. The action was the latest chapter in the city's 10-year quest to install a monitoring system there. The EMS president said he expected the design to include video surveillance of the reservoir, the dam's spillway, and both the dam's upstream and downstream faces. He estimated the project would cost between \$215,000 and \$250,000. According to a report EMS provided to the city's public works department, the dam is classified as a high hazard dam because of the potential for loss of life and property damage if it were to fail. The current monitoring system at the dam

has no remote capabilities and needs to be checked on-site.

Source:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/viewart/20121114/COMMUNITIES/311140009/Dam-warning-system-OK-d?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|s>

[\[Return to top\]](#)



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